Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 06930 241426Z

53
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
---------- 106714
R 241320Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4604

S E C R E T LA PAZ 6930

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PBOR MORG BL
SUBJ: BOLIVIA CREATES SECRET COMMAND FOR PACIFIC THEATER OF OPERATIONS

REF: LA PAZ 6884

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH MIN COORDINATION, GENERAL LECHIN, ON OCT. 22, HE HANDED ME COPY OF A SECRET DECREE WHICH HAS BEEN PUT INTO EFFECT CREATING A COMMAND FOR THE THEATER OF OPERATIONS FOR THE PACIFIC (TOP). THIS COMMAND WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ARMED FORCES PROTECTION OF THE BOLIVIAN FRONTIERS WITH CHILE AND PERU. IN ITS FIRST STAGES, THE COMMAND OF TOP WILL DEDICATE ITSELF TO STUDYING PLANNING, PREPARATIONS, AND CALCULATIONS OF THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO ACHIEVE ITS MISSION. THE MIN OF COORDINATION AND THE HIGH COMMAND OF THE ARMED FORCES WILL COORDINATE THE WORK OF TOP WITH THE PRESIDENCY. THE SECRET DECREE HANDED ME BY GEN. LECHIN IN CONFIDENCE IS BEING POUCHED TO ARA/BC FOR COUNTRY DIRECTOR KARKASHIAN.

2. GEN. LECHIN TOLD ME THAT ARMY GENERAL VILLAPANDO HAS BEEN NAMED COMMANDER OF TOP, THAT STUDIES ARE NOW BEING PREPARED ON AN URGENT BASIS. HE SAID THAT HE WISHES TO ENGAGE ME, THE MILITARY ATTACHES, AND THE MILGP IN A DISCUSSION OF TOP AS SOON AS PRELIMINARY IDEAS HAVE MATURED. HE SAID THAT NEW PRIORITIES MAY BE ESTABLISHED FOR THE MISSION OF THE ARMED FORCES IN GENERAL AND FOR THE WORK OF MANY OF THE UNITS IN PARTICULAR. NEW EQUIPMENT MAY BE REQUESTED. RESOURCES MAY BE DIVERTED.
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LA PAZ 06930 241426Z

HOWEVER, GEN. LECHIN COMMENTED THAT THE WORK OF TOP WILL BE

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

CONDUCTED WITH CARE AND THAT IT IS NOT EXPECTED FROM ONE DAY TO THE NEXT THAT BOLIVIA'S DEFENSES WILL BE MATERIALLY ALTERED.

3. GEN. LECHIN TOLD ME THAT HE WAS HANDING ME THIS DECREE AND BRIEFING ME IN GENERAL AT THE SPECIFIC REQUEST OF PRESIDENT BANZER. HE HOPES WITHIN A WEEK TO BE ABLE TO ENGAGE ME IN FURTHER DISCUSSION. TOP IS OBVIOUSLY AN OUTGROWTH OF HIGH LEVEL BOLIVIAN CONCERN ABOUT A POTENTIAL CHILE-PERU CONFLICT AND WHAT BOLIVIA BELIEVES TO BE THE INEVITABLE INVOLVEMENT OF ITS TERRITORY IN THE CONFLICT. WHEN FURTHER DETAILS ARE OBTAINED, THEY WILL BE REPORTED PROMPTLY TO WASHINGTON.
STEDMAN

SECRET

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, ARMED FORCES, COMBAT OPERATIONS, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LAPAZ06930
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740305-0727
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741020/aaaaaqwk.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: LA PAZ 6884
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOLIVIA CREATES SECRET COMMAND FOR PACIFIC THEATER OF OPERATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MORG, BL, (LECHIN, JUAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005